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First Named Inventor	Lu, Kun
Art Unit	2613
Examiner Name	SEDIGHIAN, REZA
Attorney Docket Number	021822-000200US

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

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  - Communication - Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

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Date	April 6, 2007	Reg. No.	51,995

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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Signature	Eleanor J. Taylor		
Typed or printed name	Eleanor J. Taylor	Date	April 6, 2007

PATENT
Docket No.: 021822-000200US
Client Ref. No.: 03FW001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Confirmation No.: 5026
Kun Lu	Examiner: SEDIGHIAN, REZA
Application No.: 10/691,474	Art Unit: 2613
Filed: October 21, 2003	COMMUNICATION - COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
For: RING MAP DISCOVERY AND VALIDATION METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPTICAL NETWORK APPLICATIONS	
Customer No.: 20350	

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Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicant notes that claim 1 recites:

1. A method for generating a ring map for optical network applications, the method comprising:

sending a first discovery message to a first node through a portion of an optical network, the first node corresponding to a first node identification and a first predetermined identification, the first discovery message including at least a source node identification associated with a source node, a source predetermined identification associated with the source node, and a first ring connectivity map;

processing at least information associated with the source node identification and the first node identification;

if the source node identification and the first node identification are different, updating the first ring connectivity map;

if the source node identification and the first node identification are identical,

processing at least information associated with the source predetermined identification and the first predetermined identification;

if the source predetermined identification and the first predetermined identification are different, sending a first alarm message indicating multiple assignments of the source node identification.

Applicant also notes that claim 11 recites:

11. A method for validating a ring map for optical network applications, the method comprising:

sending a first validation message from a source node through at least a portion of an optical network, the source node associated with a first ring map, the first validation message including at least a source node identification associated with the source node and a first ring connectivity map associated with the source node, the first ring map including at least information associated with the source node identification and the first ring connectivity map;

receiving the first validation message at a first node directly from the source node, the first node associated with a second ring map;

processing at least information associated with the source node identification and the second ring map;

if the source node identification is not associated with a predetermined node, sending a first initialization message;

if the source node identification is associated with the predetermined node,

processing at least information associated with the first ring map and the second ring map;

if the first ring map and the second ring map are inconsistent, sending a first alarm message.

Applicant also notes that claim 18 recites:

18. A method for processing a discovery message for optical network applications, the method comprising:

sending a first discovery message to a first node through a portion of an optical network, the first node associated with a first node identification and a first predetermined identification, the first discovery message including at least a source node identification associated with a source node, a source predetermined identification associated with the source node, and a first ring connectivity map;

if the first node includes a second ring map,

processing at least information associated with the second ring map and the source node identification;

if the source node identification is absent from the second ring map, sending a first initialization message;

if the first node is free from the second ring map,

processing at least information associated with the source node identification and the first node identification;

if the source node identification and the first node identification are different, updating the first ring connectivity map and sending the first discovery message to a second node;

if the source node identification and the first node identification are identical,

processing at least information associated with the source predetermined identification and the first predetermined identification;

if the source predetermined identification and the first predetermined identification are different, sending a first alarm message indicating multiple assignments of the source node identification.

Applicant also notes that claim 22 recites:

22. A method for processing a validation message for optical network applications, the method comprising:

sending a first validation message from a source node through at least a portion of an optical network, the source node associated with a first ring map, the first validation message including at least a source node identification associated with the source node and a first ring connectivity map associated with the source node, the first ring map including at least information associated with the source node identification and the first ring connectivity map;

receiving the first validation message at a first node directly from the source node;

if the first node includes a second ring map;

processing at least information associated with the source node identification and the second ring map;

if the source node identification is not associated with a predetermined node, sending a first initialization message;

if the source node identification is associated with the predetermined node,

processing at least information associated with the first ring map and the second ring map;

if the first ring map and the second ring map are inconsistent, sending a first alarm message.

Applicant also notes that claim 24 recites:

24. An apparatus for generating a ring map for optical network applications, the apparatus comprising:

a message receiver configured to receive a first discovery message, the first discovery message including at least a first node identification associated with a first node, a first predetermined identification associated with the first node, and a first ring connectivity map;

a message sender configured to send an alarm message and send a second discovery message, the second discovery message including at least a second node identification

associated with a second node, a second predetermined identification associated with the second node, and a second ring connectivity map;

a memory system configured to store at least information associated with a ring map;

a processing system coupled to the message receiver, the message sender, and the memory system and associated with a third node identification and a third predetermined identification;

wherein the processing system is configured to

process at least information associated with the first node identification and the third node identification;

if the first node identification and the third node identification are different, update the first ring connectivity map;

if the first node identification and the third node identification are identical,

processing at least information associated with the first predetermined identification and the third predetermined identification;

if the first predetermined identification and the third predetermined identification are different, instruct the message sender to send the alarm message indicating multiple assignments of the first node identification.

Applicant also notes that claim 28 recites:

28. An apparatus for validating a ring map for optical network applications, the apparatus comprising:

a message receiver configured to receive a first validation message, the first validation message including at least a first node identification associated with a first node and a first ring connectivity map associated with the first node, the first validation message associated with a first ring map including at least information associated with the first node identification and the first ring connectivity map;

a message sender configured to

send an initialization message;

send an alarm message;

send a second validation message, the second validation message including at least a second node identification associated with a second node and a second ring connectivity map associated with the second node, the second validation message associated with a second ring map including at least information associated with the second node identification and the second ring connectivity map;

a memory system configured to store at least information associated with the second ring map;

a processing system coupled to the message receiver, the message sender, and the memory system and associated with the second node identification and the second predetermined identification;

wherein the processing system is configured to

process at least information associated with the first node identification and the second ring map;

if the first node identification is not associated with a predetermined node, send the initialization message;

if the first node identification is associated with the predetermined node,

process at least information associated with the first ring map and the second ring map;

if the first ring map and the second ring map are inconsistent, instruct the message sender to send the alarm message.

None of the prior art references teach or suggest a method or an apparatus as recited in any of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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